



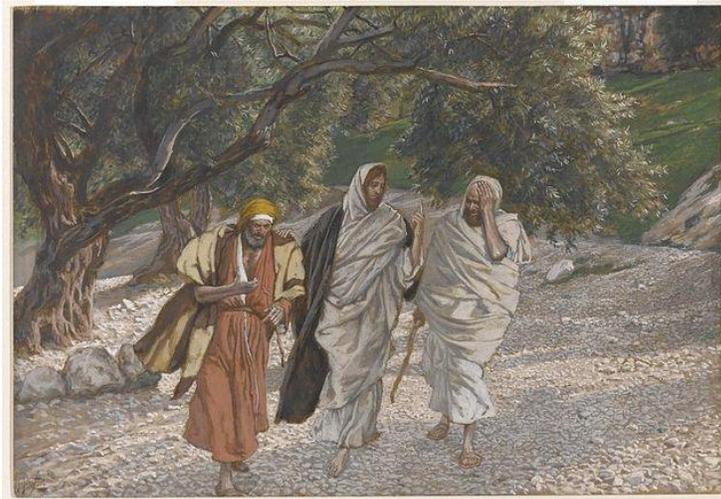
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY April 26 & BEYOND

When Shattered Hopes Give Way to New Life



When dreams and high hopes are shattered, a deep sadness permeates our lives in such a way that our minds are obscured to everything but what we have lost.

It is hard to imagine a greater loss than what Jesus' disciples felt after his crucifixion and burial. He had been announcing the coming of God's Kingdom of love and justice, in which the captives would be free, the infirm would be healed and the dead would have abundant and everlasting life. For a nation living under imperial oppression, this announcement could also be interpreted as a liberation from the Roman Empire and the restoration of Israel's glorious times.

And what had happened? The one who had been giving the wonderful signs of the coming of this hoped for Kingdom had now been killed by the authorities. Strange

rumors had been spread about the disappearance of His body and some women had even said they had seen Him alive. But who can believe such delusions?

Two of Jesus' disciples were on the way to Emmaus, a village close to Jerusalem. Their mindset was fixed on their great loss, on the events that had led to their beloved Master's unfair death, on how all their wonderful hopes had suddenly vanished like thin air. And then someone joined them on the way. And how absurd! He seemed not to know anything of what had happened in Jerusalem, so they started to tell Him. But this man, instead of showing sympathy for their great loss, rebuked them for their lack of faith, and used the Scriptures to open up a new light and hope for them. They felt their hearts burning with an undefinable certainty, but their minds were still blurred.

So, they invited Him to spend the night with them, because it was getting late and the roads at that time were not safe. They shared a meal and asked their guest to bless the food. He did so and broke the bread, and gave it to them. At that moment they suddenly recognized their Master. It was in the very act of blessing and sharing the food that the Resurrected Christ became known to them. He then disappeared from their sight, but they ran back to Jerusalem, their hearts filled with exultant joy, to share the wonderful news with the rest.

We are all living times of loss. Perhaps our losses cannot be compared to what these disciples felt they had lost. But it is a fact that the plans we had, the things we had foreseen would happen, have all shattered with the coming of this pandemic. Some have literally suffered the losses of beloved ones, and many have lost their jobs and financial stability. In the midst of all this, Easter is happening and the Christian Church is telling everyone about the Resurrected life. It would seem to be a bad joke, but it is certainly not. That is what these two disciples must have felt when this unknown companion began to rebuke them and quote Scripture. But then, suddenly, at the sharing of the meal, everything made sense.

Blessings, sharing, partaking. These seem to be the actions that changed everything for these two disciples. If it worked then, why should it not work now?

Let us not forget to bless God, even in the midst of pain, in the midst of uncertainty and sadness. Let us not forget to share our love, our time, our resources, with those who are in greater need and suffering. Let us partake of the blessings that God is still

providing us with, even if we are sad or unsettled by the situation. Then the miracle may again happen. Then the presence of the Resurrected one in our lives may become a reality, and overwhelming joy and the irresistible need to share the good news may drive us to proclaim: He lives! And because He lives, we also live!
Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-47 Psalm 116:10-17 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Third Sunday of Easter
All Saints' Sunday 9am Service
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY Noon Service
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

FRIDAY Christian Formation Study at noon
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY The Fourth Sunday of Easter
All Saints' Sunday 9am Service
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)